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In re Application of: **Beger, et al.**  
Application No.: **10/763,961**  
Filed: **January 23, 2004**  
For: **LOCKING MECHANISM FOR A BONE SCREW**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit: **3733**  
Examiner: **A. Ramana**

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is:

- ☒ A Response in the above-identified application (5 pages);
- ☒ Return receipt postage prepaid postcard;
- ☒ I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 15, 2006.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0625.

Very truly yours,

Barry R. Lipsitz  
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Attorney Docket No.: **HOE-593.1**



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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August 15, 2006.  
Signature: Carol Prentice  
Carol Prentice

**RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on June 26, 2006.  
Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the remarks which follow.

**Summary**

Claims 5, 6, and 9-29 are pending.

Claims 5, 6, 9-16 and 18-19 are allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 27 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 17, 20-25 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eckhof (US 5,902,303).

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eckhof in view of Bray (US 6,235,034).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.